(b) if not, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the salient features of this policy as a result of which the interest of the consumers, manufacturers and traders is likely to be protected to a greater extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The new pricing policy for urea units, being formulated keeping in view the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission, is proposed to be introduced w.e.f. 1.4.2003 and will replace the existing Retention Price Scheme. The new policy will be in the shape of Group Concession Scheme, which will aim at greater transparency, uniformity and efficiency in subsidy disbursements to urea manufacturing units and will induce urea manufacturers to take cost reduction measures on their own and be competitive. The farmers would continue to get urea at statutorily notified Maximum Retail Price.

Wage revision in Namrup Fertilizer Unit

366. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is thinking about wage revision of workers after bifurcation of Namrup Fertilizer Unit from HFC;

(b) if so, when it would be affected;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the revamping of Namrup Unit has been completed and whether production by all three plants has been started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) No Sir. Department of Fertilizers has not received any formal proposal of wage revision from the management of Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (BVFCL) in respect of executives and workers based on the wage settlements negotiated with the Trade Unions/ Associations.

(d) No Sir. The Namrup I & III units have-re-started production after revamp *w.e.f.* 25.3.2002 and are currently under trial run. The revamp project is expected to be completed by May, 2003.

Closure of **FCI and HFC**

367. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have decided for closure of FCI and HFC and to extend Voluntary Separation Scheme to the employees numbering more than 12,000;

(b) whether VSS would cost Rs. 730 crore;

(c) if so, the source of funding; and

(d) how many of these units could be revived through infusion of this amount as promoter's contribution as equity of 30 per cent and remaining 70 per cent as debt from Fls/Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The Government have decided to close down Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. excepting its Jodhpur Mining Organisation. These companies have offered Voluntary Separation Scheme to all their employees numbering about 10,600 involving an approximate expenditure of Rs. 691 crore to be met through budgetary support from the Government.

(d) The revival of these units has not been found techno-economically viable.

Fertilizer policy

368. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to offer twelve per cent return on net worth, under the new good pricing schemes, being considered as the part of the long-term fertilizer policy;